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FOREIGN NOTES

GROOVED AXES IN EUROPE

IN the southern part of Italy, chiefly in the province of Calabrie, grooved axes are from time to time found by the peasants, by whom they are regarded with awe and thought to be "thunderbolts" of mysterious origin. Probably twenty such specimens are preserved in various Italian collections, but few are to be found elsewhere. The Kircheriana Museum in Rome has several very good examples which are similar to the ordinary grooved axe of the Mississippi valley and eastern United States.

Three grooved axes recovered from a station of the Bronze age on the Lake of Bourget, in Savoie, are to be seen in the museum at Chambéry, France. All are made of a hard stone and there appears to be no question of their authenticity. One specimen has a high ridge on each side of the groove, the groove and ridges extending entirely around the axe. The most interesting of the three is of the double-edge type; it is rather thin, but well proportioned, with a groove passing round the middle. The material is diorite. The third specimen is of the ordinary American form.

There is a small grooved axe in the Historical Museum in Neuchatel, Switzerland, but it is without doubt an American specimen.

Nilsson, in his work on Scandinavia, figures and describes grooved axes. One is of diorite, another of hornblende. They were found in Scania, the southern province of Sweden, but they are evidently even less numerous there than in Italy.

D. I. BUSHNELL, JR.

PREHISTORIC REMAINS AT OLYMPIA

THE investigations of the German School at Olympia, according to *The Hellenic Herald* for April, 1909, have resulted in the discovery of many remains of prehistoric date, and may be said to have set beyond doubt the truth of the old legends which ascribed the importance of Olympia to a time before the Dorian invasion, about the beginning of the first millenium before our era. Excavations have been made under the supervision of Dr Dörpfeld around the Metroon and the Treasuries, where remains of early and small dedicatory temples were found. At a depth of two meters below the foundation of the Metroon, and six meters

below the surface ground about the Treasuries, were found many ancient habitations which must be dated 2000 B.C. In a black sandy stratum were found sherds and other earthenware objects, which in their form and incised decoration show clear kinship with pottery found on neolithic sites, "contemporary with Pelops and Cœnomæos," says Dr Dörpfeld.

AN ANCIENT DUG-OUT

WHAT is perhaps the largest prehistoric relic found in England has just been secured for the Hull Municipal Museum, according to *Nature* for May 27. This is the well-known "dug-out" boat found during excavations at Brigg, Lincolnshire, in 1886. The boat is cut from a single piece of oak, more than 48 feet in length and 6 feet in width — a much larger size than any oak tree living in Britain to-day. With the boat were found many interesting relics, and these have also been presented by Mr V. Cary-Elwes. Mr T. Sheppard, the curator of the museum, has successfully removed the boat to its new quarters, where it forms a welcome addition to the already large series of Lincolnshire antiquities.

FRU SIGNE RINK

WE regret to announce the death, April 19, in Kristiania, Norway, of Fru Signe Rink, widow of the late H. Rink, formerly Danish governor of Greenland and supervisor of the Greenland commerce, and known all over the world for his valuable contributions to the ethnology of the natives of Greenland and the Eskimo people generally. Fru Rink survived her husband many years, and was the author of several little books and other writings on the tales, home life, and traditions of a people with whom she had a partial connection by blood. Probably no one in Europe had a more intimate knowledge of their character, though it was with difficulty she could be persuaded to the publicity of authorship. Personally she was of a most kindly, hospitable, and vivacious disposition, and her death will leave sorrow in many hearts. A daughter resident in Kristiania survives her. — W. H. DALL in *Science*.